

# The NEWSBRIEF

**Midwest Center for Health Services & Policy Research  
VA HSR&D Center of Excellence**

## 2005 National Meeting Update



### ***MCHSPR is Growing - Opening offices at Jesse Brown VAMC and UIC***

The Midwest Center for Health Services and Policy Research is pleased to announce the official opening of our offices at the Jesse Brown VAMC (formerly West Side VA). This expansion of our center is a result of the strong interest in health services research from our colleagues in the School of Medicine, University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC) and the desire of MCHSPR to partner with colleagues at UIC. Drs. Tom Layden, Head of Department of Medicine and Jay Goldstein, Vice Head of Department of Medicine at UIC, and Dr. Subash Kajecka, Acting Chief of Staff at Jesse Brown VAMC have worked closely with Dr. Kevin Weiss at MCHSPR to bring this to fruition. This formal partnering with UIC also strengthens our ties with the Schools of Public Health, Pharmacy, and Nursing within the university.

Dr. Marian Fitzgibbon (see insert) has accepted the position of Associate Director of MCHSPR at Jesse Brown VAMC. Dr. Fitzgibbon's role will be to facilitate and strengthen the health services research programs at UIC and Jesse Brown VAMC. She will serve as a mentor to junior investigators interested in doing health services research within VA and at the university. Dr. Fitzgibbon also is a Professor of Psychology, Department of Medicine, UIC.

Joining Dr. Fitzgibbon is Dr. Melinda Stolley (see back page). Drs. Stolley and Fitzgibbon have worked together for several years in the areas of health prevention and promotion using behavior change strategies to address issues such as obesity in minority women with breast cancer, and reducing cardiovascular risks for minority populations. Their work complements and expands upon the work that MCHSPR has done to address issues of complex chronic care and the work of SCI QUERI in implementation research.

Drs. Fitzgibbon and Stolley will be joining two MCHSPR investigators already at Jesse Brown/UIC. They are Dr. Ahsan Arozullah, an HSR&D advanced career development awardee, and Dr. Saul Wiener, a Robert Wood Johnson Faculty Scholar.

Until the renovation of the Jesse Brown facility is complete, the MCHSPR offices will be located in the Health Research and Policy Centers, UIC, 1747 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL. We would like to welcome Drs. Fitzgibbon and Stolley to MCHSPR and look forward to a long and productive relationship.

### ***Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD, Associate Director, MCHSPR at Jesse Brown VAMC***

Dr. Marian Fitzgibbon is a professor in the University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Medicine's School of Public Health, section chief of UIC's Section of Health Promotion Research and the associate director for Health Services Research at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. Since receiving her doctorate from Long Island University in 1986, Dr. Fitzgibbon has conducted research in numerous areas, including eating disorders and obesity prevention. Her primary research interest is health risk reduction in people of color. Dr. Fitzgibbon is currently the principal investigator on a project assessing the efficacy of a weight-loss intervention specifi-

cally designed for African-American women and a one-year pilot study examining the feasibility of training Chicago Public School teachers to implement a healthy eating and exercise curriculum with preschoolers. She has also worked on projects exploring colorectal screening in low-literacy populations and breast cancer risk reduction in Black women. In addition, she is a research advisor and mentor to graduate students in the clinical psychology PhD program at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, where she was a faculty member from 1988 until 2004.

## Selected Publications

- Arozullah AM**, Calhoun EA, Wolf M, Finley DK, Fitzner KA, Heckinger EA et al. The financial burden of cancer: estimates from a study of insured women with breast cancer. *Journal of Supportive Oncology* 2004; 2(3):271-278.
- Bennett CL**, Luminari S, Nissensohn A, Tallman MS, Klinge SA, McWilliams N, McKoy JM, Kim B, Lyons EA, Tifilio SM, Raisch DW, Evens AM, Kuzel TM, Schumock GT, Belknap SM, Locatelli F, Rossert J, Casadevall N. Pure red-cell aplasia and epoetin therapy. *NEJM* 2004;351: 1403-08.
- Chang HT, Evans CT, Weaver FM**, Burns SP, **Parada JP**. Etiology and Outcomes of Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury and Disorder Hospitalized with Community-acquired Pneumonia. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* 2004.
- Collins EG, Langbein WE**, Dilan-Koetje J, Bammert C, Hanson K, Reda D et al. Effects of exercise training on aerobic capacity and quality of life in individuals with heart failure. *Heart Lung* 2004; 33(3):154-161.
- Conrad KJ**, Smith EV, Jr. International conference on objective measurement: applications of Rasch analysis in health care. *Med Care* 2004; 42(1 Suppl):11-16.
- Conrad KJ, Wright BD, McKnight PE, et al. Comparing Traditional and Rasch Analyses of the Mississippi PTSD Scale: Revealing Limitations of Reverse-Scored Items. *Journal of Applied Measurement* 2004; 5(1):15-30.
- Conrad KJ**, Smith E.V. Editorial, International Conference on Objective Measurement: Applications of Rasch Analysis in Health Care. *Med Care* 2004; 42(1):1-6.
- Dolan N, Ferreira MR, Davis T, Fitzgibbon M, et al. Colorectal Cancer Screening Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs among Veterans: Does Literacy Make a Difference. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 2004; 22(13):2617-2622.
- Ferreira MR**, Dolan N, Fitzgibbon M, Newlin R, et al. An Intervention to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening Among Veterans: Rationale and Study Design. *International Journal of Cancer Prevention* 2004.
- Freeman VL, Durazo-Arvizu R**, Keys LC, Johnson MP, Schafernak K, Patel VK. Racial Differences in Survival Among Men With Prostate Cancer and Comorbidity at Time of Diagnosis. *Am J Public Health* 2004; 94(5):803-808.
- Hynes DM, Weaver FM**, Morrow M, Folk F, Winchester D, et al. Breast Cancer Surgery Trends and Outcomes: Results from a National Survey. *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* 2004; 198(5):707-716.
- Janson S, Weiss K. A national survey of asthma knowledge and practices among specialists and primary care physicians. *J Asthma* 2004; 41(3):343-348.
- LaVela SL**, Legro M, **Weaver FM**, **Smith B**. Staff Influenza Vaccination: Lessons Learned. *SCI Nursing* 2004; 21(3): 153-157.
- LaVela SL, Smith B, Weaver FM, Miskevics S**. Geographical Proximity and Health Care Utilization in Veterans with SCI&D in the USA. *Soc Sci Med* 2004 Dec; 59(11):2387-2399.
- Lee SY, Arozullah AM**, Cho YI. Health literacy, social support, and health: a research agenda. *Social Science Medicine* 2004; 58(7):1309-1321.
- Lee TA**, Hagarty E, **Stroupe K.T.**, Collins SM, Peterson LR. Three Surveillance Strategies for Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci in Hospitalized Patients: Detection of Colonization Efficiency and a Cost Effectiveness Model. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* 2004.
- Lee TA, Weiss KB**. Fracture Risk Associated with Inhaled Corticosteroid Use in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* 2004; 169(7):855-859.
- Lee TA**, Divers CH, Leibmann CW. Evaluating the Efficiency of Treatment in the Allergic Rhinitis Market. *J Manag Care Pharm* 2004; 10(1(Suppl 1)):3-8.
- Nelson A, **Weaver FM**. Promoting Evidence-Based Practice in Spinal Cord Injury Healthcare. *SCI Nursing* 2004; 21(3): 129-135.
- Parada JP**, Deloria-Knoll M, Chmiel J, et al. The Relationship Between Health Insurance and Medical Care for Patients Hospitalized with HIV-Related PCP From 1995 to 1997: Medicaid, Bronchoscopy and Survival. *Clin Infect Dis* 2004; 37(11):1549-1555.
- Rabe KF, Adachi M, Lai CK, Soriano JB, Vermeire PA, **Weiss KB** et al. Worldwide severity and control of asthma in children and adults: the global asthma insights and reality surveys. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2004; 114(1):40-47.
- Stroupe KT**, Teal EY, Weiner M, Gradus-Pizlo I, Brater DC, et al. Health Care and Medication Costs and Use Among Older Adults with Heart Failure. *American Journal of Medicine* 2004; 116(7):443-450.
- Uphold CR, Deloria-Knoll M, Pallela F, **Parada JP** et al. Hospital Care for HIV Infected Persons and the Role of Public, Private and Veteran Affairs Hospitals in the Early HAART Era. *Chest* 2004; 125(2):548-556.
- Weaver FM**, Hatzakis M, **Evans CT, Smith B, LaVela SL**, et al. A Comparison of Multiple Data Sources to Identify Vaccinations for Veterans with Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders. *J Am Med Inform Assoc* 2004; 11(5):377-379.
- Weaver FM**, Goldstein B, Hammond M. Improving Respiratory Vaccination Rates in Veterans with Spinal Cord Impairment: Lessons Learned. *SCI Nursing* 2004; 21(3): 143-148.
- Weiss KB**, Liljas B, Schoenwetter W, Schatz M, Luce BR. Effectiveness of Budesonide Administered via Dry-Powder Inhaler versus Triamcinolone Acetonide Administered via Pressurized Metered-Dose Inhaler for Adults with Persistent asthma in a Managed care Setting. *Clinical Therapeutics* 2004; 26(1):102-114.

## EDITORIAL CREDITS

Contributions or  
Suggestions should be addressed to:  
**Madeline Thornton**  
c/o HSR&D (151H)  
P.O. Box 5000  
Hines VA Hospital  
Hines, IL 60141-5151

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
Carol Durczak

DESIGN/LAYOUT  
Madeline Thornton

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR  
Kevin B. Weiss, M.D.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
Frances M. Weaver, PhD